



## **King County Mental Health Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division 2002 Briefing Paper**

### **MEDICAID PERSONAL CARE PROGRAM**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In 1998, the State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Mental Health Division (MHD) determined, in collaboration with Aging and Adult Services (AAS) to contractually require Regional Support Networks (RSNs) to pay out of existing local funds an amount equal to the general-fund state cost of Medicaid Personal Care (MPC) services used by the RSN for consumers who: 1) qualify for MPC services due solely to their psychiatric disability, and 2) were authorized for Prepaid Health Plan services after June 30, 1995. King County RSN reviews state documentation of paid MPC claims to identify county residents who receive MPC services solely due to psychiatric disability, and track claims reports. The County is responsible for new client eligibility, authenticity and verification of MPC invoices, and determining their appropriateness consistent with mental health treatment plans.

MPC services generally include chore services: cleaning cooking, shopping, securing appointments, etc. Referrals to these services come from AAS or other allied service providers, or self, or advocates.

#### **ISSUES/CHALLENGES:**

Although coordination of this service to clients is an important adjunct to case management at-home services, the cost to the allied service provider, AAS, is extraordinary. AAS did not provide estimated resources to MHD, nor administrative cost reimbursement, to establish this service with RSNs. As an unfunded and cost shifted entitlement, AAS has managed to carve out MPC for eligible RSN consumers as the cost responsibility of the RSNs. This cost problem is compounded by the fact that the MHD has cut the King County budget by \$11 million dollars in Fiscal Year 02.

#### **DATA:**

	Expenditures	Increase \$	Increase %
1998 Actual	\$ 101,991		
1999 Actual	\$ 191,124	\$ 89,133	87.4%
2000 Actual	\$ 305,913	\$114,789	60.1%
2001 Actual	\$ 321,138	\$ 15,226	5.0%
2002 Projected**	\$ 401,253	\$ 80,114	24.9%
2003 Projected	\$ 501,566	\$100,313	25.0%

\*\* 2002 based on straight line of only 2 months; since increase is exponential and not straight line, this is a low estimate.

#### **RECOMMENDATION/LEGISLATIVE ACTION:**

Require DSHS to fund this mandated service.